COVID stable during summer
Region’s virus cases flat as students return to classrooms; schools have new protocols

By EVAN CALDWELL
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COVID-19 cases in the region slowly and steadily trended down throughout the summer, according to recent health data.

There were 274 confirmed COVID cases in the Stanwood ZIP code in July, according to Snohomish Health District data. That’s about the same as cases in May and June, but down from the more than 1,000 cases in January.

Countywide, the case rate recently dropped to 116 infections per 100,000 residents, which is moving Snohomish County into the CDC’s “low” community transmission level.

“We used every inch of the space we could,” said Sievers, vice president of the H.O. Seiffert Co., of the new complex that added 60 new units at Creekside Apartments in Stanwood.

The new complex, added by the Creekside South development partnership, is the third phase of the Creekside Apartments project, which began in 2018 with the opening of the complex’s first component.

In all, district staff packaged thousands of school supplies.

The mountain of supplies cost the district $42,000. In past years, some local groups have chosen to buy school supplies for individual schools.

This year, the Stanwood Elementary PTO and the Twin City Elementary PTA had already donated supplies.

“Let’s keep cases down,” health district officials wrote in a statement on social media.

“Vax up, mask up when needed,” according to the district.

“We want their focus to be on learning,” superintendent Deborah Rumbaugh said in a statement. “We want their focus to be on learning.”

Stanwood-Camano School District staff formed an assembly line Aug. 19 to package thousands of school supplies.

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The grand opening of Creekside Apartments South of Twin City Elementary earlier this month was an example of a trend toward housing growth that has been happening in Stanwood and the entire region.

The new complex added 60 new apartment units — and 59 of them were rented out before the oversized novelty scissor blades ever touched the opening ribbon.

Joe Sievers, one of the Creekside owners, said the group purchased Maple Court with 108 apartment units already built on the corner of 13th Avenue and Pioneer Highway in 2000. They bought the adjacent property, built 48 more units and changed the name to Creekside Apartments in 2018.

“Now, there’s no more room,” Sievers said.

“We used every inch of the space we could,” said Sievers, vice president of the H.O. Seiffert Co.

The change was made to “ensure equitable access to quality school supplies and relieve financial burden for families,” according to the district.

Earlier this month, district staff rallied together to create an assembly line to put together more than 1,500 supply kits, according to Kelly Parson, the district’s assistant director of academic recovery.

Each student received folders, glue sticks, scissors, pencils, markers, crayons, a pencil box, erasers, earbuds, notebooks, colored pencils and rulers.

In all, district staff packaged thousands of items, including 13,013 glue sticks, 3,663 12-packs of pencils and 1,582 24-packs of Crayola crayons.

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